

**September 12, 2012**

**Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.**

### **Bay City Times: Past and present Bay County judges honored for innovations in jury reforms**

"A current Bay County judge and his retired peer are among 12 in the state being honored for their implementation of Michigan's recent jury reforms. Bay County Chief Circuit Judge Kenneth W. Schmidt and former Circuit Judge William J. Caprathe are recipients of this year's G. Thomas Munsterman Award for Jury Innovation, a distinction given annually by the Williamsburg, Va.-based National Center for State Courts (NCSC). The Michigan Supreme Court and 10 other judges are also receiving the award."

[Full story](#)

***Also see:***

### **The Michigan Lawyer Blog: MSC jury reform project honored by Nat'l Center for State Courts**

[Full story](#)

### **NATIONAL JURY INNOVATION AWARD HONORS MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT, TRIAL COURT JUDGES FOR MICHIGAN JURY REFORM PROJECT National Center for State Courts praises Michigan Supreme Court, pilot project judges for "sustained and comprehensive commitment to enhancing jury service"**

[Press release](#)

### **CONSTITUTION DAY IS SEPTEMBER 17; SUPREME COURT LEARNING CENTER OFFERS WEBCASTS, OTHER EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES**

### **Lake Orion 4<sup>th</sup> graders to re-enact Constitution signing Court at Learning Center**

[Press release](#)

### **Detroit Free Press: Judge to weigh Open Meetings Act lawsuit against Troy council**

"In a government gadfly's lawsuit charging that Troy violated the state Open Meetings Act, a judge today told attorneys for both sides that she would take the issue under advisement. But Oakland County Circuit Judge Colleen O'Brien could issue a written opinion within days, both sides said."

[Full story](#)

### **The Detroit News: Juror causes conflict in trial for murder of girl, 12; He says he's made up his mind about killing of girl, 12**

"... Members of the jury sent repeated notes to Wayne Circuit Judge Vonda Evans on Monday complaining that one juror refused to discuss the evidence, while the man at issue fired back his own notes to the judge, asserting that he's already made up his mind about the case."

[Full story](#)

### **The Detroit News: Macomb prosecutor censured for calling Stephen Grant 'sociopath'**

"... The Michigan Attorney Grievance Commission ruled that Macomb County Prosecutor Eric Smith committed professional misconduct by failing to treat a person involved in the legal process with

courtesy and respect,' after Smith referred to Grant as a sociopath during a press conference held shortly after the frostbitten defendant was caught huddled under a tree in northern Michigan."

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Free Press: Prosecutors say Bashara's family support fades as bond hearing nears**

"A new prosecution court filing says that Bob Bashara has gone from a protected loved one to a near outcast disdained by his mother, sister and cousin.... Bashara is scheduled to appear Thursday before Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Bruce U. Morrow to ask for a bond reduction."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Detroit Free Press: Bob Bashara to ask judge to reduce \$15-million bond in murder-for-hire case**

[Full story](#)

### **The Detroit News: Bashara to appeal \$15 million bond in murder-for-hire case**

[Full story](#)

### **C & G Newspapers/Warren: Mayor, judge at odds over 'No Smoking' signs**

"... [Mayor James Fouts'] request was expected to come on Sept. 11, nearly two weeks after 37th District Court Chief Judge John Chmura ordered signs announcing the ban that were installed at the courthouse to be removed because they weren't backed up by the law."

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Legal News: Kingsley honored with MJA Hilda Gage Award**

"Hon. James C. Kingsley of the 37th Circuit Court (Calhoun County) is the 2012 recipient of the Michigan Judges Association's Hilda Gage Award for Judicial Excellence, MJA President Timothy G. Hicks announced last week."

[Full story](#)

**Note: The Detroit Legal News article also ran in the Flint-Genesee County Legal News.**

### **Detroit Legal News: Professional Outlook**

"On Thursday, Aug. 30, Thomas M. Cooley Law School's Auburn Hills campus hosted a State Bar of Michigan Professionalism Orientation program ... Numerous judges and lawyers from metropolitan Detroit gave up their afternoons to meet in pairs with small groups of six to eight students each to discuss real-life ethics and professionalism issues that the students may confront as lawyers."

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Legal News: Morouns give max to judges who backed bridge plan**

"Four members of the family of Ambassador Bridge owner Matty Moroun gave the maximum allowable campaign contribution to two Republican Michigan Supreme Court justices who voted to put a proposal designed to block a competing bridge on the Nov. 6 ballot."

[Full story](#)

### **The Evening News/Sault Ste. Marie, MI: Probate judge eliminated from ballot**

"It does not appear as though Chippewa County voters will need to weigh in on the office of Probate Court Judge in November Director of Elections. Christopher M. Thomas sent a letter dated Sept. 10, 2012, directing Chippewa County Clerk Catherine Maleport and the Board of County Election Commissioners to exclude the probate judge office from the general election ballot in November."

[Full story](#)

## **Flint-Genesee County Legal News: Northern Exposure: Bay City federal court gets its day in the sun**

"A capacity crowd filled every seat in the historic Bay City federal court on September 4. Two television stations, several photographers and print media members also were on hand. The crowds were not there to hear testimony in a stunning trial, but rather for rededication ceremonies on the courthouse's recent renovations."

[Full story](#)

## **Kalamazoo Gazette: Doug Stewart's murder conviction in slaying of Venus Stewart upheld by Michigan Court of Appeals**

"Doug Stewart's conviction in the 2010 slaying of his estranged wife, Venus Stewart, has been upheld by the Michigan Court of Appeals. A three-judge panel issued its decision Tuesday in a five-page ruling, affirming Stewart's convictions for first-degree premeditated murder and conspiracy to commit first-degree premeditated murder."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

## **WOOD-TV(8)/Grand Rapids: Court rejects all Doug Stewart appeals; Remains in prison for life in murder of Venus**

[Full story](#)

## **Kalamazoo Gazette: Former Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer, WMU trustee, given lifetime achievement award for diversity efforts from MCCA**

"Western Michigan University Board of Trustees' Dennis Archer is receiving the 2012 Minority Corporate Counsel Association's Lifetime Achievement Award in New York City today.... He also served as a Michigan Supreme Court justice from 1985 to 1990 and was named the most respected judge in the state by Michigan Lawyers Weekly, according to WMU."

[Full story](#)

## **Macomb County Legal News: Volunteers and students welcomed**

"As a new school year begins, the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center is gearing up to welcome students and others who make the Learning Center part of their civic education. Now going into its 10th year, the center conducted 363 tours for over 11,000 visitors during the 2011-2012 school year."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

## **It's a New School Year! Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center Welcomes Students, Seeks Volunteers**

[Press release](#)

## **Macomb County Legal News: Three ballot measures approved**

"The Michigan Supreme Court has ruled that voters should decide whether to strengthen collective bargaining rights, allow construction of bridges and tunnels to Canada, and require a supermajority in the Legislature to raise taxes."

[Full story](#)

## **Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Michigan seeks to establish veterans' courts**

"A set of bills passed by the state Senate today, the anniversary of 9/11, lays the groundwork for establishing a system of veterans' courts."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

## **WKAR News/East Lansing: State Legislature Gives Green Light to Veterans Courts**

[Full story](#)

## **The Michigan Lawyer Blog: Warner Norcross attorney, 2010 Leader in the Law honoree dies at 56**

"Michael Cruse died of cancer Aug. 3, 2012. He was 56.... In 2010, Mr. Cruse was named one of Michigan Lawyers Weekly's 25 'Leaders in the Law.' "

[Full story](#)

## **The News-Herald/Southgate: POLI-TICKER: Democrats and Republicans to face off for Supreme Court seats**

"Incumbent state Supreme Court Justices Stephen Markman and Brian Zahra, as well as Oakland County Judge Colleen O'Brien, will be on the Nov. 6 general election ballot.... The GOP trio were nominated Saturday by their party and the Democrats formally slated Southfield District Judge Shelia Johnson, Wayne County Circuit Judge Connie Kelley and University of Michigan professor Bridget McCormack a day later."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

## **Detroit Legal News: State parties choose candidates for Michigan Supreme Court**

[Full story](#)

## **Oakland County Legal News: Dinner event to honor retiring judge this fall**

"A retirement dinner for Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Edward Sosnick is being planned for Thursday, Nov. 15, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham."

[Full story](#)

## **Oakland County Legal News: Patriot Lessons: Judge Warren and daughter launch new television program**

"In celebration of Patriot Week, Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Michael Warren and his 13-year-old daughter Leah announced the launching of a new television program 'Patriot Lessons.'... The first episode, which began airing Monday, focuses on Jury Duty. Special Guest retired Judge Fred Mester is highlighted."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

## **Oakland County Legal News: Third Annual Patriot Week Festival planned for Saturday, Sept. 15**

[Full story](#)

## **The Oakland Press: Waterford 51st District Court judicial forum tonight at Township Hall**

"A Judicial Candidate Forum between Andrea Dean, a private practice attorney, and 51st District Court Judge Jodi Debbrecht will be held at 7 p.m. tonight at Waterford Township Hall at 5200 Civic Center Drive in Waterford. Both Dean and Debbrecht are running for 51st District Court Judge."

[Full story](#)